

one of my top priorities. My State's transportation needs are growing and ever-changing. I frequently hear my constituents speak of their frustration at the steep personal and financial costs of transportation delays and inefficiencies. Our Nation's quality of life and our economic vitality are closely linked to the quality of our transportation networks. As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation, I know how important it is to have safe and secure ports and waterways. It is critical that our Nation invest in this vital part of our economy, and that the men and women who work in the maritime industry are given the respect and support that they need to carry out their important work.

I am proud to work closely with TTD in pursuit of these shared goals. TTD is a serious, substantive organization—one truly committed to achieving results, not scoring political points. TTD understands that the transportation needs of our Nation know no partisan boundaries, whether it is average Americans traveling or commuting to work, or businesses needing reliable delivery of goods and services. Our entire Nation, regardless of region and local leadership, stands to gain from a safer, more modern transportation network, run by experienced, well-trained workers. TTD recognizes this and helps guide our shared bipartisan commitment to sensible transportation policies.

I congratulate TTD for its many accomplishments during its 20-year history. Transportation workers are at the core of our Nation's economic engine, and they have a well-respected voice and ally in the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO. I look forward to continuing to work closely with them in the years to come.

#### FAFSA SEASON

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, which helps make college a possibility for many young Americans.

The 2010–2011 form is now available and has been improved by eliminating 22 questions and 17 Web screens from the overall application.

These improvements—which will lessen obstacles for accessibility and financial aid—will help achieve President Obama's goal of generating the highest number of college graduates by 2020.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act which I proudly supported, further enhances FAFSA and brings us a step closer to wards accomplishing the President's goal.

Every student, regardless of their parents' economic status, should be able to attend college.

For years I have teamed up with schools and stakeholders to sponsor "FAFSA Nights" for parents and students; in my district.

This year I will hold a total of three "FAFSA Nights" in my district. The first two events drew close to 500 people and we anticipate that over 300 will attend the third event.

I encourage my colleagues to hold similar events.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 and Wednesday, February 3, 2010.

For Tuesday, February 2, 2010, I would have voted "Aye" on Rollcall vote #26 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 4495), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #27 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 957), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #28 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1014).

For Wednesday, February 3, 2010, I would have voted "No" on Rollcall vote #29 (on ordering the Previous Question to H. Res. 1051), "No" on Rollcall vote #30 (on agreeing to H. Res. 1051, which provides for consideration of H.R. 4061), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #31 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1043), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #32 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 901), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #33 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1044), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #34 (on agreeing to the Hastings (FL) amendment to H.R. 4061), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #35 (on agreeing to the Flake amendment to H.R. 4061), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #36 (on agreeing to the Dahlkemper amendment to H.R. 4061), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #37 (on agreeing to the Cuellar amendment to H.R. 4061), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #38 (on agreeing to the Connolly (VA) amendment to H.R. 4061).

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the League of Women Voters as they celebrate their 90th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization and I am glad to have this opportunity to pay tribute to their many invaluable contributions.

Founded in 1920, just before the 19th Amendment was ratified, the League of Women Voters was designed to help women carry out their new responsibilities as voters—to engage them in government and to encourage them to use their newfound rights to shape public policy. Though they encourage their members to be political themselves, this grassroots organization has a long and proud history of nonpartisanship which has allowed them to play a unique role in our communities and the national debate. At its core, the League has always been about educating voters and sharing with them how their voice can impact public policy at every level of government.

What began as a "mighty political experiment" has grown into one of the most re-

spected and dynamic advocacy organizations in the country. With more than 900 state and local leagues—represented in each of the fifty states as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Hong Kong—the League continues to build on the successes of the past. Through its grassroots citizen network, the League and its members are making innumerable contributions to our communities. Whether sponsoring local candidate forums or weighing in on the issues facing our nation, the organization is remaining true to its most basic purpose—to make democracy work for all citizens.

Though it grew out of the women's suffrage movement, over its ninety year history the League of Women Voters has grown into an advocacy organization for all of America's citizens. It has remained committed to ensuring that Americans fully participate in the political process and use their power as voters to effect meaningful change in public policy. It is organizations like the League of Women Voters that make our nation—our democracy—so strong.

Today, as they reflect on the ninety years that have passed, the League of Women Voters can be proud of all that they have accomplished. I wish them all the best as they celebrate their 90th anniversary and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the organization and its thousands of members for their dedication, commitment and good work.

#### THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE IMMACULATA CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CINCINNATI

### HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Immaculata Catholic Church in Cincinnati.

On December 9, 1860, Archbishop John B. Purcell celebrated the Immaculata Church during a special High Mass. This first mass marked the fulfillment of a heavenly promise that Archbishop Purcell made as a passenger aboard a ship sailing through a storm. As the storm raged, he promised to build a church on the most prominent point in Cincinnati.

While most Catholic churches were built by local communities, the Immaculata Church was quite different. Archbishop Purcell actually purchased the land, donated the stone, and supervised construction from start to finish. And, just to be certain that his promise was fulfilled, he urged parishioners to walk up the hill where the church was being built, and pray for its success along the way.

In 1970, the Immaculata Parish joined together with neighboring Holy Cross Parish. While the parish's name changed to Holy Cross Immaculata, its traditions continued. Each year, an estimated 10,000 individuals walk up the church's steps on Good Friday, stopping to say a prayer on each step.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Immaculata Church and wish the parish continued success in the future.